

# McNairy County Independent.

VOLUME XIV.

SELMER, MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENN., FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 1916.

NUMBER 51

## SPECIAL NOTICE

July 1st and Jan. 1st most subscriptions expire. Statements will be sent to the July subscribers and we expect they will be paid. Those in Selmer may save the mortification (?) of being dunned by calling now. Our 14th year expires with two more issues. Begin the new year with a clean record or go on the D. H. list.

At the primary Saturday Nat Tipton defeated C. A. Stainback for attorney general. Stainback's record in the legislature on temperance seemed to work his undoing.

Judge Edgington was found guilty in the impeachment trial, and is now indicted by the grand jury for bribery. If proven guilty, it means much more than being removed from office.

Roosevelt has given out to the Progressive National Committee what he thinks and what he deems the duty of his whilome party. He declines the nomination and says he is for Hughes and will do all he can for his election. There are a few hot heads who still persist in running a ticket, but of course there never was anything but Roosevelt. His retirement decapitates the animal at one stroke.

Just as well not delay longer the thrashing the Mexicans need. By the time this is read the probabilities are the job is going on. It looks like it is inevitable unless we simply tuck our tails and let them murder and rob our border people. The base treachery at Carrizal should be the battle cry. The people are aroused, and united in one mind on making it a fight they will long remember.

Don't forget the coming of the Live Stock and Dairy Instruction cars by the M. & O. R. R. on Monday and Tuesday, July 10-11, at Selmer. On the 7-8 they are at Bethel Springs. This is a scheme to buy up all the cream along the line and have it shipped to a creamery. They will give full instructions about the business, and will select a local man at each point to buy the cream as it is brought in, and pay cash equal to 30c for butter. You are saved the churning.

## The Chautauqua

Selmer has the experience of its first chautauqua. Those who put up for it seem to be satisfied with their tuition, \$18.12 each. The conditions for the one next year are 25 guarantors, with a guarantee that no one will be out more than five dollars. Whether twenty-five signers will be found we do not know.

We do not propose to criticize anything, but think if any kind of a performance comes to a community to take money away, they should not be guaranteed the amount they take. Put on a show and take what patrons guage it as worth by their gate fees. Some of the exercises were good, but as a whole it was not above mediocrity, but perhaps those who had season tickets got value received.

## More Live Stock Needed

In the past ten years our population has increased more than 10,000,000.

In the past ten years the meat producing animals have decreased more than 20,000,000 head.

In the past ten years meats have been doubled in price to the consumer.

With meat animals selling at from seven to nine cents per pound, would it not be a good proposition for the farmers of McNairy county to raise more live stock?

More live stock is needed in Tennessee to build up the land as much

as for the profit in raising the stock. \$10.00 in even an ordinary pig will give \$100.00 in hogs in one year. Raise hogs. Feed yourself. Sell the surplus.

Holly Springs, Miss., cattle sell for \$10.00 per hundred pounds in St. Louis. Why don't some of our farmers try to duplicate this, as the same conditions exist here as do at Holly Springs; as Holly Springs is only 60 miles southwest of here.

## NEW YORK LETTER

Castle Garden, at the foot of Broadway, has long been an interesting spot. The round building was put up more than a hundred years ago as a fort, and the walls, nine feet thick, were pierced for cannon about thirty feet apart, looking out to sea. Modern cannonading would reduce it to a heap of rubbish in about an hour. It was turned into a theater, and it was there, in 1850, that the sweetest singer known in history, the Swedish girl Jennie Lind sang to eager listeners and was paid the then unheard-of price of \$1,000 a night, or more. Some paid as high as \$250 for a seat and were glad to do so. Later on the Garden was used as an immigrant station, and the big round auditorium, that once rang with the divine notes of Jenny, echoed to a babel of foreign tongues representing every country under the sun. For several years past it has been used for an aquarium, perhaps the largest in this country. Monsters of the sea, like porpoises, giant groupers, green turtles and sea lions, sport in the salt sea water kept pure and sweet for them by constant pumping with bronze pumps that are not acted upon by the salt as ordinary iron pumps would be; in the briny waters of the big pools set apart for them, you can see the ugly forms of the porpoises, some of them ten feet long, their tails fashioned flat-ways and their heads terminating in round snouts, swimming with majestic motion, or jumping half-way out of the water on their unwavering round. These animals are warm-blooded and suckle their young like cows. They are valuable for oil, and the oil from the porpoise jaw has peculiar properties that make a demand for it.

The green turtles, weighing hundreds of pounds apiece, are very lazy, but there is an old snapping turtle resting on that piece of log, his grey, wicked eye watching your thumb, which, if he could, he would grab and hold on to till it thundered (so they used to tell me). I also watch the sturgeons, nearly as big as a man, with interest; they lie on the bottom, as do the giant groupers who are five feet long or more. The black sleek form of the sea lion, weighing perhaps 1,000 pounds, is seldom still; his round, dark eyes watch for food, and if you were to throw a fish to him (for doing which the keepers would arrest you), it would not reach the water before he would catch it. When he gets really hungry, he has a deep, hoarse bark that sounds like a dog with a very bad cold.

The black alligators lie asleep, or crawl very lazily around their watery pen, but there is an ashen-grey cousin of theirs that has a sharpened snout and a cold, wicked, oh, so wicked, grey eye that only pretends to sleep, while he is watching you like a hawk. This is the terrible crocodile, "the tiger of the waters," that every year in Africa does away with so many human beings. I would rather face a hundred hungry alligators than one well-fed crocodile. Some of them attain a length of thirty feet, and will snap a man's leg off as neatly as a circular saw would do it. I turned with relief to the smaller aquariums, set in window-like places around the walls, filled with water held in plate-glass tanks, behind and above which the light came down, and in the clear waters, which were being replenished all the time by a bubbling stream from a pipe, all sorts of fish were seen swimming. There were the spotted brook trout, the tautog, grayling, whitefish of the great lakes, catfish and even dog-fish and alligator gar—not all together, by any means.

The gar is a regular highwayman, and while worthless to eat, he kills other fish. The sign on the tank said the cat-fish carry their young in their mouths till they are ready to swim. The best fish I ever ate was a yellow catfish of the Tennessee river, but there was none in this collection.

Upstairs was another row of tanks all round the big building and it would take hours to describe what there is to be seen there. Swimming round in their native element were the wonderful angel-fish of the Azores, some of them as blue as indigo, and others with violet and pearly tints changing into delicate blue and pink as they turned around; the parrot fish of the southern seas, with a bony mouth that was open as if laughing all the time; the cow fish, trunk fish and puffers, with eyes that had colors in them that I had never seen before, flashing like Mexican fire-opals, and when the light struck them shading off into emerald and sapphire colors beautiful beyond description. The spade fish, ladder fish, the green moray from the Bahamas looking like a water moccasin; the toad-fish with cruel spotted eyes and deformed body looking like a floating nightmare; the stately cod-fish, most valuable of all food-fishes used by man (100 million pounds are consumed annually); sheephead, hog-fish, snapper, drom (which makes a peculiar noise, said to be caused by the rubbing together of two extremely hard bones in its head); the hippocamp or sea-horse, about two inches long, its tail wrapped around a seaweed, but its head looking wonderfully like a horse; horse-shoe crabs, lobsters, craw-fish, bass, perch, sun-fish, jew-fish (if I were a Jew I would hit somebody for naming that fish after me, for it looks like a descendant of Old Scratch), and a long line of other finny specimens, almost made me taste fish before I got through looking at them. There were pictures of the fishes of the Hawaiian Islands as gaudy as flowers, and of all the strange stapes you could imagine. I looked for a specimen of the Brazilian piranna, of the Para and Amazon rivers, which is so fierce that a specimen two feet long has been known to kill a man, for it is hungry for human blood, and with its razor-like teeth and lightning movements will cut a vein as soon as a man steps into the water. The piranna was not on exhibition. He is one of Roosevelt's discoveries.

It is no light job to find proper food for all these different fishes, which are looked after by the Society of Natural History. The tiny ladder fish from Brazil that is so thin that when he faces you he looks like the edge of a card, must have his particular grub; so must the giant porpoise, and all the tribes between. And all done so that the people of New York can, without price, get a glimpse of aquatic life, and marvel once more at the cunning of the Hand that fashioned them all, and so many of them for our good.

It is believed that there are monsters in the deeper parts of the ocean (some places are seven or eight miles deep) that never come to the surface. The ribbon fish, living some miles below the surface, is occasionally washed ashore on the Pacific coast, dead from having come out of the great pressure below, and specimens of abyssal fishes have been found that carried a small electric bulb, lighted with a current from their own bodies (of course not constructed like our invention) to light them in those depths of outer darkness.

In closing I will repeat one verse of a poem which I translated from the German, beginning: "Weist du, wie viel Muecklein spielen in der heissen Sonnengluth?"

Can you count the insects flying  
In the sunlight's pleasant glow,  
And the fishes that are lying  
Where the crystal waters flow?  
God the Lord their wisdom taught them  
When into the world He brought them  
And gave unto each his joy.

LINDSAY S. PERKINS.

## Selmer's First Chautauqua

The first Chautauqua ever offered Selmer was held last week, and afforded three great days for uplift.

True, it was new to the local management and new to the Selmer public; to be sure there were some hitch-hikes and some awkward halts. But on

the whole it was certainly a very creditable affair. The attractions were high-class and not a failure or a flunk in a single instance.

Both the educational uplift afforded and the clean entertainment and amusement furnished were and will continue to be of great value.

But the point of greatest benefit to the public is the impetus it gave to the development of the Community Spirit in Selmer. We need this spirit to pervade our community life till we CAN ALL get behind a GOOD THING and work together to put it by.

The Chautauqua helps to develop this spirit. True it is hardly to be expected that ALL will fully agree and heartily work at any one thing even if it is a good one; so in this case the "Knocker" was abroad with his little hammer, but he really hurt no one, and next time he will join us as a booster instead of a "Buster."

Financially the venture was not a money maker, but no one expected it would pay in dollars. Its returns are in a higher coin than the government mints afford; they are in higher thoughts and better lives, and this cannot be measured nor paid for by the standard of Dollars. The deficit was met by the 12 guarantors and not one of them flinched or failed. It was really refreshing to see the nerve displayed and the cheerful readiness with which they paid their part. No one was sore or complained, but each felt that he had helped to furnish a good and helpful week for the people of the town. At the meeting of the committee of guarantors after the close and all expenses had been met,

## BUCK SNORT

Tells What He Thinks About Mexico

I fought with Forrest and his men,  
And wore the rebel gray,  
And fer the part that I took then  
I'm not ashamed to-day.  
But boys, it's now one glorious land,  
And but one Flag we know.  
The North and South go hand in hand  
And march to Mexico.

We're fixin fer a war agin;  
I feel it in the air.  
It may be, fightin is a sin,  
But this time I dont care.  
Nothin will do them Mexikins  
But shove a war on us.

Why, dern their yellin, pizen skins,  
They want another fuss!

You know wha' Davy Crockett said—  
Old Dave of Tennessee:

"Be shore you're right, then go ahead!"—  
Boys, that's the stuff fer me.

Dave smote the Mexikins with might,  
And died at Alamo.

Now, maybe we'll have to fight  
And SAVE old Mexico.

Our Woodrow gave them all the rope  
That mortal man could ask.

They only mocked him. Now I hope  
He'll finish up the task.

He didn't want to do em harm,  
But only asked fer peace.

They wouldn't have it; so we'll arm  
And MAKE the trouble cease.

We're not a-lookin fer their land,  
Ner any of their stuff,

But that there sneakin, murderin band  
Has deviled us enough.

We're with you, Woodrow! Don't you let  
Carranza vex you so;

Old Tennessee will help, you bet,  
To clean up Mexico!

Hickory Holler, Tenn., June 25, 1916.

every one present was strong in the hope and determination to have a better Chautauqua for next year than we have had this.

Resolutions were passed thanking the young ladies, Misses Hagy and Gooch, for their splendid programs they furnished for the free morning hours, also to the authorities of the churches who so generously loaned their seats and chairs, and to the court house officials for the use of the chairs. This spirit of co-operation on the part of the young ladies, and of the court house and church authorities and of many of the public spirited citizens of the town, if fostered and nurtured, will put us in line for many great things for the town and county and state.

It will help us not only to have a Chautauqua for all but it will get us together for better side-walks and streets and for good roads in the county; it will help us to better public health facilities, better schools and higher schools; it will develop Civic Pride and we will soon find our municipal affairs improved, homes more artistic, our lawns more carefully kept, and soon we will expect to lay out a fine park and have better rest and recreational facilities, better work for our workers and a better TOWN FOR ALL. In line with this hope the contract for the return of the Chautauqua has already been signed by as many guarantors as we had this time, but we want as many more for the next years coming. Of course they will be found, for our citizens will not let this chance pass. So let's get ready and all pull together for better things.

Very truly,  
H. P. WOOD,  
Secy.

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